

NRCS

Natural Resource Programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offer landowners financial, technical, and educational assistance to implement conservation practices on privately owned land. Using this help, farmers and ranchers apply practices that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance forest land, wetlands, grazing lands, and wildlife habitat. Incentives offered by USDA promote sustainable agricultural practices, which protect and conserve valuable farmland for future generations. USDA assistance also helps individuals and communities restore natural resources after floods, fires, or other natural disasters. Certain programs give the Great Lakes Basin a high priority when ranking requests for funding. This is noted in the "Great Lakes Connection" row. Contact information for all grant programs is as follows:

Midwest regional office: (608) 224-3000
 Illinois state office: (217)398-5267
 Indiana state office (317) 290-3200
 Michigan state office: (517) 337-6701
 Minnesota state office: (651) 602-7856
 Ohio state office: (614) 469-6962
 Wisconsin State Office: (608) 276-8732
 Pennsylvania State Office (717) 237-2202
 New York State Office (315) 447-6504

NRCS Funding Sources

Grant Program	Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)	Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Purpose	To provide technical and financial assistance to preserve life and property threatened by excessive erosion and flooding	To accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in authorized RC&D areas	To provide technical, educational, and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands
Great Lakes Connection	Available for Great Lakes watershed areas that have been damaged by a natural disaster	Available to communities in the Great Lakes basin	Available to farmers in the Great Lakes basin
Eligible Applicants	Owners, managers, and users of public, private, or tribal lands	State, tribal and local units of government and local nonprofit organizations	Persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production
Award Amount	Varies	Varies	Max. \$10,000 per person per year
Total Awarded in Fiscal Year	N/A	N/A	N/A
Matching Share	Varies	Varies	Varies
Key Dates: - Application Due - Selection	Ongoing	Set by state	Ongoing

Grant Program	Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)	Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Priorities	To protect lives and property threatened by natural disasters http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html	-Improvement of quality of life achieved through natural resources conservation and community development -Prudent use natural resources http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html	-Compliance with Federal, State, and tribal environmental laws -Environmental enhancement http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html
Last Updated	12/99	12/99	12/99

Grant Program	Farmland Protection Program (FPP)	Forestry Incentive Program (FIP)	Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)	Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)	Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)
Purpose	To provide funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farmland in agricultural uses	To support good forest management practices on privately owned, non-industrial forest lands nationwide	To provide technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts	To develop and improve wildlife habitat	To maintain and improve the management, productivity, and health of the Nation's privately owned grazing land
Great Lakes Connection	Available to farmlands in the Great Lakes basin	Available to Great Lakes basin forest lands	Available to landowners in the Great Lakes basin	Available to landowners in the Great Lakes basin	Available to owners of grazing land in the Great Lakes basin
Eligible Applicants	State, tribal, or local governments	Private landowners	Private landowners	Eligible participants include those who own or have control of the land under consideration	Owners and managers of private grazing land
Award Amount	Up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies
Total Awarded in Fiscal Year	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Matching Share	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies
Key Dates: - Application Due - Selection	Set by state	Set by state	Set by state	Set by state	Set by state

Grant Program	Farmland Protection Program (FPP)	Forestry Incentive Program (FIP)	Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)	Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)	Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)
Priorities	Acquire conservation easements or other interests from landowners http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html	-Tree planting -Improving a stand of forest trees -Site preparation for natural regeneration http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html	Establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html	- wildlife habitat areas -targeted species and their habitats -specific practices http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html	-assure the sustainability of all private grazing lands -enhance these lands for future use -inform the public of the benefits of making this national commitment and investment
Last Updated	12/99	12/99	12/99	12/99	12/99

Grant Program	Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act	Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
Purpose	To solve natural resource and related economic problems on a watershed basis	To assist land-users, communities, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems
Great Lakes Connection	Great Lakes priority for water quality programs	Great Lakes priority for water quality programs
Eligible Applicants	Local organizations, state, and other public agencies	Land-users, communities, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies
Award Amount	Varies	Varies

Grant Program	Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act	Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)
Total Awarded in Fiscal Year	N/A	N/A
Matching Share	Varies	Varies
Key Dates: - Application Due - Selection	Set by state	Set by state
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -watershed protection -flood prevention -water quality improvements -soil erosion reduction - irrigation water management -sedimentation control -fish and wildlife habitat enhancement http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Compliance with the highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland (Swampbuster) provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act -Meet goals for resource stewardship and assist individuals to comply with State and local requirements -Technological development -Information management http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html
Last Updated	12/99	12/99